

Truck Registration \$15.00

John Lyding (LM-116)

As many of you may know, I retired as Maryland's Director of Driver Licensing and School Vehicle Safety in 1995. When that occurred, I promised my wife that I "would do something about that mess in the garage." Well, I did do something about it, I gathered up all of the boxes, bags, albums, stock sheets, etc. and put them into plastic bins. That was a good deal because I could stack these up neatly against a wall and forget them.

Actually, I didn't forget everything. While I was loading the bins, I separated the perfin material. Then I sorted all the perfin covers alphabetically and I wrote a series of articles for the *Bulletin* (A is for Apple, B is for Ball, etc.) That series and my enthusiasm died somewhere in the first quarter of the alphabet. The plastic bins gathered dust until August of last year, when we moved out of our four-

bedroom home with a large den, garage, and storage room/laundry into a two-bedroom apartment in a retirement community. There was nowhere to fit "that mess in the garage." So, I did what any red-blooded, macho American male would do. I rented a climate-controlled storage locker.

That solution worked for a while, but after two months a bill for the third month arrived. Determined to do something, I moved twenty 20-gallon plastic storage bins into the second bedroom. Since then, I have been sorting, putting items in albums, selling (eBay and three local stamp clubs) and throwing away the things that I didn't think I could do away with. I had completed working on perfins (well through the letter W anyway) when I came upon the Automobile Certificate shown below.

As a former state-licensing official, I found this document interesting for a number of reasons.

- This is the registration for a solid tired truck an 8,500-pound Autocar. The fee was \$15.00,
- The form for 1919 was personally signed,
- Replacement license tags were available for \$1.00.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AUTOMOBILE DIVISION INSTRUCTIONS TO HOLDERS OF AUTOMOBILE LICENSES FOR PNEUMATIC AND SOLID TIRED VEHICLES.

Attach your 1918 license plates to your motor vehicle after December 31, 1917. Put one on the front and one on the rear, each conspicuously placed so that the number can be seen at a glance.
Never operate your car unless both license plates are in place. If one or both are lost, send one dollar with application for new set to the State Highway Department.
Do not attempt to operate the vehicle with any license plates other than its own, or with only one plate.
Do not make a license plate to replace a lost one. Any substitute plate will get you into trouble.
Carry always your registration certificate.
Do not permit anyone to operate your car unless he or she is an owner or has a license. Never permit any person under 16 years of age to operate your car.
Display always one hour after sunset two white lights on the front of your car.
Remember that your rear light must be displayed so that it shines on your license plate.
Remember 24 miles an hour is the maximum rate of speed on any public highway.
Lastly and most important, operate your car always in a careful manner. Reckless driving is responsible for nearly all of the accidents which occur. See that you are not at fault.
ALL PROVISIONS OF THE AUTOMOBILE LAW WILL BE ENFORCED RIGIDLY.

And the card was posted on Christmas day 1918 with a 2¢ red Washington head stamp punched SHD, perfin pattern SI42 of the State Highway Department, Harrisburg, PA.